

FORCE MAY BE REDUCED

Customs Inspectors are Occupying the "Uneasy Bench".

TOO MANY MEN FOR THE WORK

Business of the Port is Not as Brisk as It Has Been, and the Collector is Said to Have Recommended That Some Heads be Chopped.

Information was received last night from a seemingly reliable source that Collector of Customs J. E. B. Stuart has recommended to the treasury department that the present force of customs inspectors at this port be reduced. However, the information was received at so late an hour that it was impossible to obtain an interview with Captain Stuart regarding the matter.

What reduction will be made in the force is not known. An unverified report is to the effect that two or three inspectors in the "lower office" will be dropped. Also it was reported that one of the two negro inspectors had been notified by the collector that unless he could make arrangements to be transferred to another place, he would be laid off.

It was also said upon good authority that the inspectors have heard the report about reducing the force and many of them are said to be sitting on the "uneasy bench."

The export and import business at this port has declined during the latter part of the winter and it is said that the collector considers the present force entirely too large for the comparatively small amount of work which the inspectors are now called upon to perform. It was because of this belief, it is said, that Captain Stuart made the recommendation to the treasury department.

SHIPPING REPORT.

Saturday, March 21, 1908.

Arrived.

Steamer Deramore (Nor.) Sevil, Philadelphia—To White Oak Coal Company in ballast.

Steamer Agot (Nor.) Sevald, Baltimore—To Berwind-White Coal Company in ballast.

Steamer Sirdar (Br.) Puckey, New Orleans—To Baker-Whitely Coal Company for bunker coal.

Steamer Bay State, Sneider, Boston—To White Oak Coal Company in ballast.

Schooner Jacksonville, Harrison, New York—To White Oak Coal Company in ballast.

Schooner Mount Hope, Babbitt, Portsmouth—To New River Consolidated Coal Company.

Schooner Fred A. Davenport, Blake, Portland—To Chesapeake & Ohio Coal and Coke Company in ballast.

Barge Badger from Allyn's Point—To White Oak Coal Company in ballast.

Cleared.

Steamer Sirdar (Br.) Puckey, Rotterdam—Baker-Whitely Coal Company.

Sailed.

Steamers Sirdar (Br.) Puckey, Rotterdam; William Chisholm, Perry, Providence.

COAL FOR VERA CRUZ.

Norwegian Steamship to Take Cargo for Mexico.

The Norwegian steamship Deramore Captain Sevil, arrived in port yesterday from Philadelphia to load about 3,500 tons of coal for Vera Cruz, Mexico. She is consigned to the White Oak Coal Company.

This will be the first cargo shipped from this port to Vera Cruz in more than a year.

Will Load for Panama.

The Norwegian steamship Agot, Captain Sevald, arrived yesterday from Baltimore, to load 5,000 tons of coal for Colon, Panama. The vessel has aboard several hundred tons of anthracite coal, which she loaded at Baltimore.

TAKING CENSUS OF ALIENS.

Immigration Inspector Williams Visiting Asylums and Prisons.

Rapid progress is being made by the immigration inspectors in taking the census of all aliens in the state confined in private and public hospitals and in the penal institutions. The census is being made in accordance with orders recently issued by the department of commerce and labor.

Captain J. E. Williams, Immigration Inspector at this port, has done the bulk of the work thus far completed. He has finished the census in this vicinity, has completed the rounds of the Williamsburg asylum and Charles City county, and yesterday finished up in New Kent county. Tomorrow he goes to Richmond, where he will remain a week taking the census at the state penitentiary.

As soon as this work is concluded, inspectors Williams and Schmucker, of the Norfolk bureau, will be sent to the remaining counties.

No Cereal Exports.

For the first week in many months no cereal exports were shipped from this port during the week ending yesterday. Two ships are now taking cereals here and will sail this week.

THEATRICAL

James T. Powers comes to the Academy of Music next Thursday night under the direction of Sam S. and Lee Shubert (Inc.) presenting "The Blue Moon," which ran for two years in London and one full year at the New York Casino with Mr. Powers as the star.

"The Blue Moon" won great success in England, and on this side of the water has won equal popularity. This is due in great part to the attractiveness of Mr. Powers in the leading comedy role. Mr. Powers is one of the foremost musical comedians and it accounts for the fact that "The Blue Moon" has a vehicle which gives him every opportunity to put his best foot forward.

The management is said to have spared no expense in giving its star a company that will ably second him in his efforts to amuse. Numbered among the large company are many old favorites and several new ones who have won much commendation since the first offering of this piece. Among the cast will be found Clara Palmer, Nanon Jacques, Leslie Leigh, Lucy Jane Johnston, Louise MacDonald, Myrtle Cosgrove, Phil H. Ryley, Edward Earle, Max Sharpe, Robert Broderick, H. L. Griffith, Frank Farrington, Blanche Wilcox, Jennie Prager, the toe dancer, and a big chorus.

There are some 25 musical numbers on the program and numbered among them are several which promise to be great popular successes. Naming a few we will find "Why Don't You Take One, Little Boy," "Burmah Girl," "She Didn't Know," "Crocodile," "Don't You Think It Time to Marry," and a specialty by Mr. Powers and Miss Palmer, entitled "Popular Entertainments."

The scenes of the play are laid in British India which affords great opportunity in scenic and costume effects, and it is said that the Messrs. Shubert have provided a setting beautiful to behold.

The sale of seats opens at the box office Tuesday morning.

"Simple Simon Simple."

"Simple Simon Simple," a musical farce, billed as a "cartoon musical comedy" was presented at the Academy of Music yesterday afternoon and last night before fairly large audiences. Some of the musical numbers were pretty, there were one or two clever people among the principals, and there was a sprightly, well trained chorus.

Mr. Franklin Farnum, tenor, and Miss Texas Guinan, soprano, have good voices and their solos were the most enjoyable features of the performance. Simple Simon and Moss had little to do, and if they had less the show would be more attractive.

ENFORCING NEW LAW.

Chief Reynolds Instructs Policemen in Regard to Saloons.

Acting upon Commonwealth's Attorney C. W. Robinson's interpretation of the provisions of the new Hyrd-Mann liquor law, Chief of Police John W. Reynolds yesterday notified the local lodges of Elks and Eagles that in the future their buffets will be on the same basis as saloons and they must be closed at midnight and on Sundays. Heretofore the buffets have remained open at all hours of the day and night and on Sundays.

The chief has instructed the police force on all of the provisions of the new law and the men will see to their enforcement.

"A Hold Up in Calabria."

Unprecedented success rewarded the efforts of the management of Pastime Theater to please its audience the past week. The managers promise to maintain the excellence and high standard of their exhibitions and they will start the week with an exciting motion picture, subject entitled, "A Hold-up in Calabria," portrayal of a high-way robbery in the mountain fastnesses of Spain. The daring and non-vivant of these soldiers of fortune is depicted with an almost life-like reality.

Annual Meeting of Members.

The annual meeting of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association will be held at the association building tomorrow night. Three new members will be elected to the board of directors and other important business will be transacted.

Men's Meeting at Y. M. C. A.

Rev. J. W. Porter, D. D., will address the meeting for men at the Young Men's Christian Association this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. This will be in the nature of a farewell meeting for Dr. Porter.

Joseph Charles Guild.

The regular meeting of the Joseph Charles Memorial Guild will be held at the Young Men's Christian Association tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

"Taft on First Ballot."

NEW YORK, March 21.—Governor A. B. Cummings, of Iowa, who was in town tonight, said that Secretary Taft will be nominated on the first ballot and elected. He also predicted that Bryan would be the Democratic candidate.

Rockefeller Coming to Virginia.

AUGUSTA, GA., March 21.—John D. Rockefeller will leave Augusta Monday for Richmond, Va., where he will remain a week or ten days. From Richmond he will go to Hot Springs, Va., for a month or six weeks, and from that place will proceed to New York.

ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY

State Lawmakers to Again Convene in Richmond This Week.

THEY WILL TRY JUDGE BLACKSTONE

Believed by Those Professed to Know Whereof They Speak That the Case Will be Disposed of Before the Week is Over.

RICHMOND, VA., March 21.—The general assembly will reconvene here Wednesday of next week, at which time the Blackstone case will be taken up. It remains to be seen whether the legislature will take up any other matters, but the impression is that this will not be done. The House stands ready to take up and consider the bills which have passed the Senate and which are now on the calendar, and has adopted a resolution to that effect, but the Senate has laid the motion on the table. The Senate will have to give its consent to take up the House bills which the now on the Senate calendar.

The belief is that the bodies will have nothing to do but take up the Blackstone case and dispose of it as quickly as possible and get away. The members will receive no pay whatever for this extra session, only being allowed mileage. In view of the reported statement of Judge Blackstone to the effect that he will fight the case to the highest tribunal, the members incline to the opinion that the best thing to do is to consider the case, dispose of it, and if removal is voted, to let the accused man take the case right up to the courts without waste of time.

"I expect to be able to get to my home by the last of the coming week," is the expression used by a gentleman who is identified with the general assembly and who will have to remain here just so long as the general assembly is in session. This would indicate that there is little chance for other business and also that the Blackstone case will be easily and quickly disposed of.

INDEPENDENT BASE BALL CLUB FOR THIS CITY

Players Organize With Maloney as Manager and John O'Hara as Captain.

With William Maloney as manager and John O'Hara captain, the Newport News Independent Baseball Club has been organized by a number of well known local ball players. Dr. Louis Loeb, who has managed the team for three years, has retired from baseball and was not a candidate for the position of manager.

Manager Maloney is enthusiastic over the present outlook for the season and both he and Captain O'Hara promise the fans of Newport News some of the best diamond sport that has been seen here in years. Nearly all of last year's players are in the city and a number of new candidates are expected to turn out. Anyone desiring to try for the team is asked to communicate with Captain O'Hara at the Huntington Hotel.

The team will open its season early in May, but the regular practice work will start about the first of April.

NO TROUBLE IN THAW FAMILY, SAYS BARTLETT

Lawyer for Mrs. Thaw, Senior, Denies Stories Coming from Pittsburgh—Believes Harry Sane.

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, March 21.—In an authoritative statement issued today Franklin Bartlett, counsel for Harry K. Thaw and his mother, Mrs. William Thaw, emphatically denied that there has been any disagreement between the members of the Thaw family. "The stories emanating from Pittsburgh in the past few days to the effect that there has been a disagreement between the members of Harry K. Thaw's family over the suit of Evelyn Thaw for the annulment of her marriage to Harry K. Thaw, are absolutely without foundation," said Mr. Bartlett. "There has been no disagreement of any kind in Mr. Thaw's family." This statement was made at the request of Mrs. Thaw, who is now in Pittsburgh.

Speaking of the opinion expressed by the alienists, Dr. McLean Hamilton, that Harry K. Thaw is a hopeless paranoiac, Mr. Bartlett said that on two occasions recently he had held long conferences with him. On both occasions, he said, Harry Thaw seemed to him to be perfectly sane.

"PEARL OF THE PACIFIC."

Peculiar Charm About Life in the Island of Hawaii.

"For the past nine years I have made my home in the Hawaiian Islands," said Mr. Bryan, president of the Pacific Scientific Institution, of Honolulu, at the Rennett. Mr. Bryan is a scientist whose pet ambition is to add to the store of human knowledge by a thorough exploration of the islands of the Pacific, many of which have never been visited by a white man. In a pleasant chat about affairs in our island territory he said: "There is a peculiar charm about life in Hawaii, and once a man comes under its spell he never cares to live anywhere else. It is not the climate

entirely, though, that is near perfection; it is not the superb scenery, that cannot be matched on the globe, nor is it solely due to the kindly intercourse and hospitality of the inhabitants. All these are factors in imparting an individuality to a land that has an unalloyed charm.

"In Hawaii we have the greatest mixture of races, and yet there is no friction or prejudice based on race. The individual stands on his own merit. Chinamen and Englishmen, Japanese, Kanakas, Germans, and Americans will sit down to a banquet together, and nobody is at a discount because of his racial origin. This is true as a general proposition, but, of course, the white man does not as a rule intermarry either with the Orientals or the handsome and captivating native women. The others cross freely, and, curiously enough, the offspring of a Chinaman and a Kanaka girl is a happy result of intermingled blood, the little halfbreed having its mother's beauty and sunny nature and its father's steadiness and thrift.

"The native Hawaiians are a vanishing race, there being only about 30,000 of them left. They seem to realize their melancholy situation, and their general attitude is of discouragement, as though it were useless to strive against destiny. It is very pathetic, but I see no remedy. Civilization has been their mortal foe."

PROVING IT.

General Topsy was a Russian, and so was General Topsy. They asked their rude assailants if they wouldn't kindly stop. But their yellow Jap antagonists were heathen shy on manners. And they used the fort's defenses as a place to plant their banners. So the generals hiked to Russia, where they called each other quitters. Liar, knave and scoundrel, till the quarrel grew quite bitter. But they settled up the matter to the public satisfaction. By shooting up each other in a sanguinary action.

Should a nature faker say he saw two hippopotamuses Both balanced on a saucer's edge, like acrobatic cusses, And a purple kangaroo come with song and dance and laughter And hang its brother by the toe from the very topmost rafter. Then stand upon a mouse trap and hypnotize the keeper. While the emu emulates a shad and dives down deep and deeper—Then the Great Authority and the faker must do battle And clear the point at issue as the verbal bullets rattle.

Should Henry James grow peevisish when a critic says he's worried By the involved sentences through which his eye has hurried; That he can't tell from the story, at least not very clearly. If the heroine has calmed herself by the whyness of the whyness, Or the soul within her shriveled by the dustiness of the dryness—Why, the author and the critic can discuss it, breast to muzzle, Which will prove the style is limp—or a brain-distracting puzzle.

What's in a Name?

There is nothing in a name in a Tenderloin rooming house. A theatrical manager who, for convenience sake in order to be near his theater, lives in a house in one of the roaring forties was very much annoyed the other day to find in his mail a letter addressed to a young woman bearing the same name and initials as himself. He spoke to the bell boy about it, and complained that his mail would get mixed up. "Oh, I can fix that for you, all right, all right," responded the bell boy. "She's an awful obliging lady. She'd do me a favor in a minute. I'll just ask her to take another name while she lives here. She won't mind a bit."—New York Sun.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

The average man's way to economize is to quit spending money on one thing and begin to spend it on another.

A woman wants her children to tell her the truth, but she never wants to tell herself the truth about them.

A girl always sighs when she looks at the moon, because she once read in a novel how the heroine did it.

It's very hard for a woman not to be suspicious that the man who passes the plate in church will take out her quarter and put in a nickel.

A man who talks about his heart as if it were a decoration for a woman's dressing table has a lot to learn about being able to support a wife.

On Inspection Tour.

Mr. Samuel L. Dixon, of Macdonald, W. Va., president of the White Oak Coal Company and the New River Consolidated Coal Company, arrived in this city from Cincinnati yesterday afternoon on a tour of inspection. Mr. Dixon is one of the best known coal men in the East. He has personal supervision over the various coal fields of the White Oak and New River companies in West Virginia.

Ran Meek Off His Feet.

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 21.—The same horses which were defeated with ease by Meek in last Saturday's \$10,000 Derby at the Fair Grounds, today ran Meek off his feet and beat him by several lengths in the City Park Derby, \$10,000 guaranteed. Angels won with Shapultepec second and Meek third.

Reassuring.

Patent (to dentist) I say! This gas is absolutely safe, isn't it? Dentist—Don't worry, sir. In these times I couldn't afford to lose a customer.—Life.

WATT, DOXEY & WATT.

All Wool PANAMA.

Black and Navy—a bargain that will interest many of our customers.

69c.

Cream Serge.

For Coat-Suits and Separate Skirts—43-inch; 75c value for

58c.

Printed Pongee.

In beautiful shades of Brown, Navy and Black, with neat, dainty designs.

50c.

Bleached Muslins.

For your Spring Sewing—36-inch, "Hill," 10c; "Fruit,"

11 1-2c.

Linen Finish Sheets.

Extra-heavy weight—full, double bed size; special value.

59c.

Homespun Linen Towel.

For the bath and general use, large size.

15c.

Bleached Table Damask.

An extra-heavy quality, 50-inches wide.

25c.

THE BUSY STORE.

Ladies' KID GLOVES.

There is a certain skill in tanning the skins and a certain deftness in their manufacture that makes the gloves imported from France excel every other glove in the world.

The Long Gloves are essential for early Spring wear—the popular shades; 16-button length, \$2.95.

The Two-Clasp Kid Gloves are shown in all the Spring Colors as well as Black and White, \$1.00.

Two-Clasp Lisle Gloves, in Black and White.

25c and 50c.

Silk and Lisle Gloves.

Two-clasp Silk Gloves in Black and White.

75c.

The Long Silk Gloves

In 16-button length, Black, White and the new shades for Spring.

\$1.50.

Men's Underwear.

Buy your Spring Underwear now when the assortments are good; light-weight shirts and drawers, neatly finished.

25c, 39c, 50c a garment.

Men's Neckwear.

A splendid assortment of Four-in-Hand, stylish patterns, light or dark colors.

25c and 50c.

WATT, DOXEY & WATT.

New SPRING SUITS.

The very latest shapes, styles and materials are here, neatly tailored; prices and qualities that will interest you.

\$15, \$16.50 and \$17.50.

White Shirt Waists.

A refreshing and interesting display. The styles are decidedly new.

\$1.00 to \$5.00.

Nemo Self-Reducing Corsets.

The highest type of a stout woman's Corset ever produced. The double garter attachment holds down the Corset firmly, and the self-reducing strap keeps the front steels close to the body.

\$3.00.

JEWELRY Specials.

Shirtwaist Sets 50c
Vell Pins 10c
Sash Pins 25c
Brooches 25c and 50c
Cuff Pins 25c a Set
Gold Filled Rings 25c and 50c
Stick Pins 25c
Cuff Links 25c and 50c
Sterling Silver Thumbless 25c
Snap Barrettes 10c and 25c
Collar Buttons 5c

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An Abundance of Style and Quality

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Check in hand Cures the most difficult cases in three days. Used by hospitals and clinics. Sold by

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FOR MEN AND WOMEN. The Big 44 for men's ailments. Discharges, inflammations, irritations or obstructions of mucous membranes. Pains, and not strictly of a venereal nature. Sold by New York, or sent in plain wrapper by express, prepaid, to 50¢, or 3 bottles \$1.75. Choose over an epidemic.

FOR SALE

Fresh Fish, Oysters and Clams.

Promptly Delivered.

A. ASKEW

133 Thirtieth Street.

How One Man Catches Cobras.

A driver on the Avonmore Railway, South Africa, while staying at the Gamtoos, caught a large cobra de capello alive. The cool way in which he did the trick (says a local paper) sent a cold shiver through every one who saw it. He simply caught hold of the point of its tail, gave it a sudden jerk toward him and caught it by the back of the head. He then placed it in a biscuit tin. The snake was three inches in diameter and about four feet long.—Indianapolis News.

Delightful and Healthful Sport Roller Skating!

New Hard Wood Floor in Our Rink.

Price for Ladies' Skating Reduced to 10c.

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